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**REMARKS BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
U.S. TRADE SHOW
OPENING CEREMONY**

**RUPOSHI BANGLA, DHAKA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013**

Honorable Minister of Commerce Ghulam Quader

President of the American Chamber of Commerce Aftab-ul-Islam

Vice President of the American Chamber of Commerce Geoff Strong

AmCham Executive Director Gafur

... and you, our most distinguished guests

Asalaam 'laikum, good morning, and welcome to this Grand Opening of the 22nd annual U.S. Trade Show.

The moment is at hand ... within minutes our eager waiting will be over as the Honorable Commerce Minister cuts the ribbon on the trade show and throws open the door to the splendors of this magnificent exhibition. You and I ... all of us ... will be dazzled by the dizzying array of American products and services: presentations on American technology to explore and develop Bangladesh's gas reserves; construction equipment to build Bangladesh's infrastructure; agricultural equipment to help make Bangladesh food secure; generators to power Bangladesh's surging economy; dredgers to reopen the nation's river systems and ports; information technology that will put Bangladesh on the cutting edge of global IT; presentations by Boeing, whose state-of-the-art aircraft will link Bangladesh to the world; presentations on America's higher education institutions, the best in the world, and only the best is good enough for Bangladesh; and a myriad of consumer goods, which are much valued by Bangladeshi consumers.

All of this, all of this ... and so much more ... awaits us on the other side of the door.

This is a trade show with a difference.

When you enter the exhibit areas, you are actually entering a giant workshop ... a workshop where American technology and ingenuity are partnering with Bangladeshi energy, dynamism, creativity and entrepreneurial skills to build, forge, create the New Bangladesh, the Middle Income Bangladesh, where all Bangladeshis have quality housing, food, healthcare and access to education ... that's what's happening here ... Gafur, you need to provide hard hats for everyone ...

Indeed, America – Bangladesh's largest investor; Bangladesh's largest trading partner – is Bangladesh's most determined partner in building the New Bangladesh, Sonar Bangla.

Evidence of this partnership abounds:

- Chevron is investing half a billion dollars in Bibiyana to help feed Bangladesh's surging appetite for power and energy. Last month I visited Bibiyana and witnessed firsthand the drilling underway to further tap Bangladesh's gas supplies.
- Another American energy giant ConocoPhillips is exploring parts of the Bay of Bengal to discern whether Bangladesh has even more gas under the sea.
- A few months back the Chairman of General Electric, the world's largest infrastructure company, came to Bangladesh not to collect frequent flier miles, but to invest, to make equity investments in power generation to meet the needs of a growing economy.
- Legendary U.S. garment industry investor Martin Trust was here last October to put his investment dollars at work in partnership with local investors in the readymade garment and knitwear industries.
- American state-of-the-art technology drives the Super Petrochemical facility in Chittagong, which now supplies needed precursors for Bangladesh's paint industry, thereby reducing Bangladesh's import bill.
- American machinery and technology play a central role in Bangladesh's rapidly emerging shipbuilding industry.
- Linkages in the world of Information Technology ensure that Bangladesh is a full player in the global IT revolution. An American company SPI is helping Bangladesh prepare to launch its own communication satellite, thus further linking Bangladesh virtually with the world.
- Boeing Company is here to provide the latest aircraft to link Bangladesh physically with the world, including soon, I hope, flights to America.

... I'm just getting warmed up ... this list of American engagement in building the New Bangladesh goes on and on, but my time does not.

... and America's private sector is not only a huge investment and trading partner in Bangladesh, but also serves as model corporate citizens by contributing directly to Bangladeshi communities by supporting Smiling Sun health clinics, donating medical equipment to hospitals, bringing IT to schools, and this, too, is a long list.

As I close I wish to recognize the delegation here from AmCham India led by Vishal Wanchoo, GE's Vice President for Growth Initiatives and representing 17 U.S. companies already doing business here in South Asia. Mr. Wanchoo accompanied GE Chairman Jeff Immelt here last October, and I think he liked the opportunities he saw, as he's already back ... this time with a whole delegation. Welcome to our friends here from India.

As my many Bangladeshi friends here have heard me say on many occasions, I believe that Bangladesh can be/should be the next Asian Tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger. Imagine a Bangladesh shedding forever the cloak of poverty and realizing its vision of Sonar Bangla, Golden Bangladesh. This is no mythical vision; this is a reality waiting to happen. I am proud that America, both the private sector and our development programs, is Bangladesh's greatest partner in making this vision reality, in bringing a better today and tomorrow to the wonderful people of this great nation. I thank AmCham President Aftab, Vice President Geoff, and Executive Director Gafur for making this grand trade show happen. I thank good friend Commerce Minister Quader for gracing this occasion with his presence. And, most especially, I thank all the companies participating in this year's trade show, making it the best ever.

I am so pleased that all of us are gathered here to celebrate the rich partnership between America and Bangladesh, a partnership that will help ensure that soon Asia's next tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger, will be strutting proudly and powerfully across the global economic stage.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery*